

A black and white photograph of a vast, snowy mountain landscape. The foreground shows a dark, flat expanse, possibly a lake or a frozen river. In the middle ground, a range of snow-covered mountains stretches across the horizon. The sky is bright and overexposed. The word "COOPER" is printed in a bold, black, serif font, centered horizontally and slightly above the middle vertically.

COOPER

James Cooper (1780-1845)

and

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861)

of

Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Augusta, Rockbridge, & Bath counties, Virginia

by

Homer C. Cooper

145 Pendleton Drive

Athens, Georgia 30601

August 1959

Revised April 1968

August 1959
Minor revisions, April 1968

To: My Cooper Relatives
From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601
Re: Our ancestors, James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), married in 1805, of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This paper will be concerned with James Cooper and his wife, Nancy Agnes Wooddell, two of our ancestors of the sixth generation. My hope is that distributing this sketch will encourage you to send me additional material concerning these two ancestors. Please make suggestions concerning corrections and additions, for I plan to revise this paper for inclusion in a brief history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, and McKemy ancestors, which will be distributed among you when completed.

As was the case with an earlier paper concerning Joseph Wooddell, a major source of information for this paper has been the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I am grateful to Mr. Wooddell for permission to copy and use this material. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamed, a native of Green Bank who now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, for introducing me to Mr. Wooddell and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the history and family relationships of Pocahontas County. Other valuable sources have been letters and conversations with members of the family, Chalkley's abstracts, Price's history, and the courthouse records at Marlinton, Staunton, and Lexington.

James Cooper (1780-1845) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on January 16, 1780, the youngest of the four children of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKemy. James' father died when James was less than two years old and he was reared in the Mossy Creek section of Augusta County, according to Price. Though Chalkley abstracts adoption papers for his two brothers, I found none for James and it is therefore most probable that James was reared by his mother, Jean McKemy, at the McKemy homestead near Mossy Creek. However, I have no direct evidence to support this guess.

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1845) was born in Augusta County, Virginia on December 13, 1785, the second child of Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820). I know nothing about her childhood. However, James and Nancy may have met at the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1768 and in which both the McKemy and Wooddell families were prominent. There is also some slight evidence that James and Nancy's mothers may have been sisters, but I do not have conclusive evidence about this possibility.

Contrary to the statement of Price, which will be quoted later, James and Nancy were not married when both moved to Green Bank soon after 1800. I do not know whether James accompanied James McKemy, his uncle, or the Wooddell family on this move; since James McKemy & Joseph Wooddell were granted land jointly, they may have moved as a single party, with James Cooper in tow. Before his marriage, James Cooper earned a part of his living at Green Bank by teaching school, according to a bill now in the Wooddell family papers in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank:

Dundry due to James Cooper for teaching school:

	L	S	D
Thomas Coberly, Dn to Cash	0	1	10
S. Jacob Nottingham, Dn to Cash	0	2	0
James Nottingham, Dn to Cash	0	2	0
James Nottingham, Dn to Cash	0	2	0

Stephen Minard, Dr to Cash
John Suttain, In to Cash

L	S	D
0	12	0
0	12	0

Taken from the Book—it Being a Ballance Due me from the Employers January the 16th, 1804. James Cooper

James Cooper and Nancy Agnes Wooddell were married at Green Bank on June 17, 1805. Since Nancy was still a minor, the marriage bond was made several days before the ceremony between James and her father, Joseph Wooddell. Green Bank was still part of Bath County at that time and thus the following bond is on file at the Bath County courthouse, Warm Springs, Virginia:

Know all men by these presents that we, James Cooper and Joseph Wooddell are held and firmly bound unto John Page esq. Governor of Virginia in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the use of the Commonwealth to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Governor or his successors we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators jointly & severally firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 11th day of June, 1805.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is shortly intended to be had and Solemnized a marriage between the above bound James Cooper and Nancy Wooddel of this County, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force:

Signed and Acknow.^d
in presence of
Chs L Francisco

JAS COOPER
JOS WOODDELL

Seal

After their marriage, James and Nancy settled near her father's homestead on a stream which is now called Cooper Run, a branch of Deer Creek, at an approximate longitude of 79° 48' 30" and north latitude of 38° 24' 45". Over the years, James acquired considerable land. Some of the boundaries of their land were specified in a deed to their son, Joseph, made shortly before James' death in 1845:

This indenture made and entered into this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty five between James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia of the one part and Joseph W. Cooper of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said James Cooper for and in the consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to him in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by him the said James Cooper hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Joseph W. Cooper and to his heirs and assigns forever the following certain tracts or parcels of Land to wit: One tract containing one hundred and fifteen acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr Lamb and Betay his wife lying and being in the County of Pocahontas and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at 2 white Oaks corner to Solomon Conrad thence N. 60° W. 130 poles to 3 white Oaks corner to sd Conrad thence N. 73° W. 40 poles to a pitch pine or black pine S. 50° W. 54 poles to 3 black pines & Boon Tallmans line thence S. 7° W. 70 poles to a White Oak and hickory thence S. 65° E. 96 poles to 2 Birches a branch S. 14° E. 36 poles to a pine and white oak on the top of a ridge thence S. 65° E. 100 poles to 2 Chestnuts thence N. 5° W. 109 poles to the Beginning;

Also an other tract containing seventy five acres Deeded to sd Cooper by Mr. Warrick and James Tallman lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Cartmels Creek a branch of Greenbrier River and bounded as follows Beginning at 2 maples and sugar tree S. 80° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood thence S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 maples on a ridge N. 60° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks W. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 22° W. 33 poles to a white oak and hickory on the top of a hill E.

94 poles to 2 Beeches by a branch S. 11° E. 110 poles to a forked maple in a draft and down the same to N. 83° W. 60 poles to 2 ironwoods N. 84° W. 204 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract containing twenty acres adjoining the foregoing and Jacob Bible and bounded as follows to Wit. Beginning at 2 ironwoods corner to Jacob Bible and the old tract thence S. 15° E. 30 poles to 2 pines on a hill Side S. 77° E. 88 poles to 2 white Oaks N. 25° E. 16 poles to a spruce pine N. 66° W. 26 poles to a Spruce pine N. 15° W. 20 poles to a pine and white oak thence leaving sd Bibles line N. 83° W. 70 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract Containing Eighty acres deeded to sd Cooper & Jacob Dysart Thomas Lamb and his wife lying & being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows to wit; Beginning at a Sugar Tree and maple corner to Wm. Lightner thence S. 88° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 Maples on a ridge N. 62° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks N. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 28° W. 53 poles to a white Oak and hickory on a ridge N. 40° W. 58 poles to 2 white Oaks S. 72° W. 52 poles to white Oak S. 58° E. 14 poles to the Beginning on the other tract containing fifteen acres and adjoining the aforementioned tract and Deeded to sd Cooper by sd Dysart Lamb and wife.

Another tract Containing fifteen acres and Deeded to sd Cooper by James Tallman lying and being in the county and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek adjoining the lands of Solomon Conrad, Patrick Bruffy, and Boon Tallman.

Together with the appertinances belonging to sd tracts or parcels of land to the sole use and behoof of him the sd Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever, and the said James Cooper for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree with the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs, that the said James Cooper and his heirs the said parcels of land with all the appertinances thereunto belonging to the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim of him the said James Cooper and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever will forever warrant and defend, in Witness Whereof the Said James Cooper hath hereunto Subscribed his name and affixed his seal this day and year above written.

Jas. Cooper Seal

Pocahontas County to wit—We Edward Ervine & Wm. Arbogast Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that James Cooper a part to a certain deed bearing date the 19th day of March 1845 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired not to retract it and desired to certify the sd acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas in order that sd deed may be recorded Given under our hands and Seals this 19th day of March in the year 1845.

Edward Ervine Seal
Wm. Arbogast Seal

James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) were the parents of nine children:

901 Elizabeth (Betsey) McKemy Cooper
Born May 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died May 8, 1845, Greenhill, Highland County, Va.
Place of burial not known.
Married April 4, 1844 to Samuel Woods

902 Malinda Cooper
Born December 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died _____ 1894, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
Place of burial not known.
Unmarried

- *503 James Harvey Cooper
 Born July 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died December 8, 1881, near Tanner, Gilmer County, W. Va.
 Buried on his farm on Jessie Run, near Tanner, W. Va.
 Married March 8, 1836, Pocahontas County, to Julia Ann Whitman
 (born September 28, 1817, Anthonys Creek, Greenbrier County,
 W. Va.—died September 20, 1903, near Tanner W. V.—buried
 beside her husband), daughter of George Whitman, Senior.
- 504 Nancy B. Cooper
 Born July 29, 1812, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died March 3, 1885, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Unmarried
- 505 John Thomas Cooper
 Born November 28, 1814, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 9, 1878, Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married October 31, 1850, near Fairmont, W. Va., to Louisa Lirpin
 Linn (born February 15, 1825, Linn's Mills near Fairmont, W. Va.
 died February 11, 1916), daughter of Robert Linn III (1781-1834)
 & Catherine Lyon (1788-1856)
- 506 Margaret I. Cooper
 Born February 11, 1819, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died January 25, 1895, Burnt House, Ritchie County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married March 12, 1844 to Enoch R. Hill (born January 13, 1821—
 died August 6, 1896, Burnt House, W. Va.), son John Hill (1790-
 1885) & Keturah Cunningham (-).
- 507 Lucinda Cooper
 Born March 1, 1821, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died May 27, 1886, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Arbovale, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Married December 21, 1843, Green Bank, W. Va., to John Alexander
 Gillaspie (born December 22, 1815—died March 11, 1897, Green
 Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.).
- 508 Joseph William Cooper
 Born April 18, 1823, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 29, 1898, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Warwick Cemetery, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Married first 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (born October 21, 1822-
 died July 12, 1863, Green Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.)
 Married second January 16, 1868, Bath County, Va., to Harriett A.
 Wade (born 1835—died about 1869), daughter of Henry S. Wade &
 F. Arbogast.
 Married third to Mary E. Arbogast (born 1845), daughter of Solomon
 Arbogast & Nancy Nottingham.
- 509 Eliza Virginia Cooper
 Born September 30, 1825, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 18, 1900, Dumore, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married November 30, 1849, to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828).

During the period from 1800 to 1810, several lawsuits arose among the var-
 ious members of the McKamy family and between some of the McKamys and the children

D. JAMES NOTTINGHAM, IN to Cash
 James Nottingham, IN to Cash

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of James Cooper (-1781). These suits were engendered, apparently, because some of the McKemy uncles had purchased or managed the property of James Cooper (-1781) after adopting one or two of his children, then died intestate, which led to disputes between their own children and the adopted Cooper cousins. The records pertaining to these suits can be found in the Augusta County courthouse under "McKemy vs. McKemy—O.S. 147; N. S. 51—Bill, no date" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. 2, pages 127-128) and "Coopers Heirs vs. McKemy—O.S. 212; N. S. 75—Bill, May, 1809" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. II, page 167). Judging by the abstracts, these papers might contain information about the various Cooper-McKemy relationships, but I have not had an opportunity to visit the courthouse at Staunton. However, I do have a photostatic copy of a letter by James Cooper (1780-1845) to Mr. & Mrs. James McKemy, which was submitted as evidence in the Cooper-McKemy case cited above:

Dear Uncle & Aunt—These Comes to let you know that we are enjoying a Reasonable Degree of health at present and hope these may find you and your family in good health when they Come to your hand.

I have nothing material to inform you of at present only that I have Notify. Andrew Kenady to attend at Staunton at Garbers Tavern on the first day of the September District Court in order to Settle the Bond I have of my fathers on him and his Brother James, I wrote him to have the Bond he said he had against my Father (that is if there is any in being) or to have the money to pay it or I should enter suit against him as I could give him no longer Indugence.

I have some thoughts of going to Tenesee State this fall if I possibly Can—and wish you if it lies in your power to get me some mony as I shall stand in need of some to bear my expences—and also I want you or Some of you to be at Garbers on the day above mention. to meet Kenaday to see if he will have the Bond or money or what he intends to do and you will much oblige your Affectiate Nephew.

Mr. James McKemy

N. B. please to write to Bearer

James Cooper

July the 31st 1806

Bath County

I have compared the handwriting of this letter, which is in the Cooper-McKemy case records in the courthouse at Staunton, with samples of James Cooper's handwriting in the Wooddell family papers and there is no question but that the James Cooper (1780-1845) of Green Bank was the son of the James Cooper (-1781) and Jean McKemy of Rockbridge County. Other evidence supports this relationship: the Wooddell papers contain a letter from James McKemy in which he mentions going to Lexington, county seat of Rockbridge, on business for James Cooper; the oldest child of James Cooper (1780-1845) was Elizabeth McKemy Cooper; approximate years of birth for James' older siblings, calculated from adoption and apprenticeship data in Chalkley (I, 273; I, 280), are consistent with James' known date of birth.

The above letter is also interesting because James mentions the possibility of visiting Tennessee. Though James was probably reared in the Mossy Creek area, he may have spent part of his early years in Tennessee; Chalkley's abstract of the Cooper-McKemy suit papers states: "James Cooper and others of the Cooper family moved to Tennessee." A thorough examination of the papers in the Staunton courthouse would probably reveal the basis for this statement. Some of the McKemy depositions in the two suits were from Knox County, Tennessee.

In addition to farming, James Cooper (1780-1845) also served as a Bath County constable for several years. As early as 1808, he carried out court orders, according to a document in the Wooddell family papers:

Bath County to wit—Whereas Charles Doneven in said County farmer hath personally come before me Sampson Mathews one of the Commonwealths Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County and hath taken a Corporal oath that

O. V. Mathews, Clerk of the Court
James Cooper, Do to Cash

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he the Said Charles Doneven is afraid John McMahon in the Said County farmer and James McMahon the Said John McMahon's son will beat him (wound maim kill or do him some bodily hurt) and hath therefore prayed surety of the peace against him the Said John McMahon and James McMahon his son.

These are therefore on behalf and in the name of the Commonwealth to Command you jointly and severally that immediately upon the receipt here of you bring the Said John McMahon and James McMahon before me or some other Justice of the peace for the said County of Bath to find surety as well for his personal appearance at the next Court to be holden for the said County as for their keeping the peace in the mean time towards Citizens of this Commonwealth and chiefly towards the said Charles Doneven.

Given under my hand and seal in the said County the fifteenth day of September one thousand Eight Hundred and Eight.

To James Cooper Constable
To Execute and Return

Sampson Mathews

Seal

James apparently continued as constable for many years, since Price (pages 100-101) states concerning the formation of Pocahontas County from Bath County:

Affairs having so far progressed, the formation of a new county was mooted and due arrangements made. A resolution to that effect was passed by the Virginia Legislature, March 1821 . . . One of the most memorable days in the social and civil history of Pocahontas County was the 5th day of March, 1822, when the first court was held . . . James Cooper was appointed Constable for the Head of Greenbrier, with William Slaven and Samuel Hogsett as bondsmen.

At his death in 1845, James was apparently still serving as constable, since the men who served as his bondsmen had to settle obligations which he had not settled before his death, according to a receipt in the Wooddell papers:

Recd 1 Dec 1846 of James Wooddell the acct of Patrick Bruffey Sheriff of Pocahontas County for the sum of \$13.78 & also for the sum of \$9.08 money paid by the said James Wooddell as one of the securities of James Cooper late Constable of Pocahontas County upon executions from the Superior Court of law & chs. for Pocahontas County in favour of the Gov. vs. said Cooper & his securities—said acct is now placed in my hands for the purpose of collecting the amt. thereof by suit of the estate of sd Cooper.

W. H. Terrill

James was a member of the Virginia militia, according to a document in the Wooddell papers:

At a Regimental Court of Enquiry held for the 127 Regiment of Virginia Militia at the House of John Bradshaw in the County of Pocahontas on the 26th day of November 1825.

Ordered that James Cooper Provost Martial to this Regiment be allowed three dollars per day for Attending one Regimental and two Battalion Courts of enquiry during the Present year amounting in the whole to \$9.

Joseph Moore C.C.E.

Apparently militia allowances were paid from fine money collected by the sheriff, for on the reverse side of the above document is the following notation:

The Sheriff of Pocahontas County will pay the within sum of Nine Dollars to James Cooper out of any money in his hands Arising from Militia fines.

John Baxter Col. Comdt.

James also served as the local assessor and one of the receipts he gave to his brother-in-law is in the Wooddell papers:

1839—James Wooddell to the Com^r of the Revenue for Pocahontas County. In to Entering by Divise two tracts of land on the land list 98 & 40 Acres of land Devised by Joseph Wooddell.

Jas. Cooper Com^r Rev.

The year before his death, James prepared a will which was probated in December 1845 and can be found in Pocahontas County will book 2, page 265:

In the name of God Amen. I, James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering the mortality of the Human Body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last Will & Testament, Revoking all others—First I Recommend my soul to God who gave it, my body to be Decently Buried in a Christian like manner, and after my Burial expenses are paid, and all my other just debts are punctually paid, I Will and Bequeath the Ballance of my property both real and personal in the form following:

First, I will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy Cooper all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture except such as her Daughters has made and claims, also the controle of my House and House hold during her life time or Widowhood, her choise of two clocks, and my Family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my Daughter Malinda, provided she out lives her mother the remainder of the Books to be equally divided between the ballance of the Heirs, I also will to my Wife Nancy Cooper, one Horse two cows and ten head of Sheep, and the Bees for the use of the Family, To my Daughter Betsy M. Cooper or her Heirs, I will and bequeath, one Sorrel Mare Saddle and Bridle, her equal proportion of Sheep, and one cow (exclusive of two cows that she claims as her own at this time), I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Malinda one Horse Saddle and Bridle one cow and her equal proportion of Sheep, also the same to my Daughter Nancy B., the same to my Daughter Margaret I., the same to my Daughter Lucinda, the same to my Daughter Eliza Virginia and to my son Joseph W. Cooper, I will and bequeath one bay colt one cow and his equal proportion of Sheep with his sisters, also my Rifle Gun & Shot Pouch, my Watch, and wearing apperl, also my Plantation with all its apertainances, including all the Farming Utentials and Wind Mill, during the Lifetime or Widowhood, of his mother or during the single sate of any of his Sister, Provided the above named J. W. Cooper mentains his Mother during her Life tim or Widowhood and his Sisters or sister while they remain Single and wish to live on the Place with him, by them giveing him what assistance they can towards their own support, and after the Death or Widowhood of my Beloved Wife, and after the marriage or death of all my single Daughters, the Plantation, is to be sold, Provided it brings what any three disinterested Free holders may say it is worth, the appraisors to be chosen by the Heirs liveing on the Plantation at that time, provided they can agree, if not, they are to be appointed by Court, and if my son J. W. Cooper complies with the above, He shall have two hundred dollars out of the price of sd. land and an equal Portion with his sisters, also all my interest in the Mountain Lands and Farming Utentials which is on or belonging to the Farm at that time exclusive of the Horse, Cow, Sheep, Gun, Watch and Cloaths, before mentioned, but if my son J. W. Cooper does not choose to mentain his mother and sisters as above mentioned, then my Beloved Wife is to have the Farm and Farming utentials during her life or widowhood for the benefit of her and her single daughters or in case of the death of her son J. W. Cooper while he is single, she is to have the same controle as if he should refuse to support her and her single daughters as above mentioned—To my son James H. Cooper, I will and bequeath Fifty Dollars out of the price of said land when sold, by deducting the Principal, without it's interest of a note which I hold on him out of sd. Fifty Dollars—I also Will and Bequeath to my son John T. Cooper Fifty Dollars out

B. Jacob Nottingham, In to Cash
Nottingham, In to Cash

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of the price of sd. land when sold, and if sd. J. T. Cooper chooses he may have the surveyors Instruments at Thirty Dollars out of sd. Fifty Dollars and to have the same any time after my death.

Lastly, I constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Nancy Cooper and my son Joseph W. Cooper Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Thirty first day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty four and 69th year of the Commonwealth.

WITNESSES PRESENT

Jas. Cooper

Seal

Boone Tallman
John A. Gillaspie
Jacob Bible

I do not know whether any of the objects mentioned in James' will, including the family Bible, are still in existence. I have had some correspondence with one of the descendants of Joseph William Cooper, but he does not know of anyone who has family heirlooms or papers. Since none of James' descendants now live in Green Bank, most of this material was probably destroyed or widely scattered when the various moves took place. Since Malinda, who never married, was living with her sister, Eliza Virginia Cooper Kerr, and family in 1870, according to the 1870 census, it may be that someone among the Andrew W. Kerr descendants has the family Bible and other objects.

James Cooper died on November 8, 1845. His son, Joseph William Cooper, operated the family farm and supported his mother until her death on November 29, 1861. During our brief visit to Green Bank in 1958, Mr. Hamed and I were unable to locate the graves of James and Nancy, but we did not have time to make extensive inquiries in the neighborhood or to search the old family homestead.

Price (pages 476-479) has written a sketch entitled "James Cooper", which I will reproduce in full, even though some of it duplicates my previous remarks, because Price's book is not easy to obtain, particularly outside West Virginia:

During most of the 19th century the Cooper name has been familiar in our region. James Cooper, the progenitor of the Cooper relationship, was a native of Augusta County, and was reared in the Mossy Creek section of that great County. Having married Nancy Agnes Wooddell, he came over with the Wooddells, very early in the settlement of the upper section of our county, and opened up property now (1900) owned by Robert N. Gum, near Greenbank, then known as Piney Woods. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Elizabeth Cooper became Mrs. Woods, and settled at Greenhill, Highland County.

Margaret became Mrs. Enoch Hill and lived in Ritchie County. Her daughter Harriet became Mrs. Fling, and lived at Flag, Ohio. Nannie became another Mrs. Fling, and lived in Ritchie County.

Jane Cooper became Mrs. Andrew Kerr and lived near Dunmore. Her daughter Marsile became Mrs. Washington Hoover; Anne, now Mrs. Raymer Davis, near Greenbank; Caroline, now Mrs. Ginterwood Sutton, at Durbin. Her son William Kerr in Pocahontas, and John Kerr lives in Lewis County.

Lucinda Cooper became Mrs. John Alexander Gillespie, late of Greenbank. Her children were Taylor, Amos, and Wino, the three sons. Her daughters were Nancy, who became Mrs. George Beverage; Rachel, now Mrs. Henry Sheets, near Dunmore; Margaret, now Mrs. John L. Hudson, near Louise, Mary now Mrs. George Sheets, and Martha.

Nancy and Malinda are the names of James Cooper's other two daughters. Thomas Cooper died in youth.

John T. Cooper married in Marion County. He was a popular physician.

He resided a number of years in Parkersburg and then at Claysville, where he died in 1878. His daughter, Flora, teaches school in Parkersburg. His son James a foreman in machine shops at Parkersburg and other points. Another son, Arthur, is a Presbyterian minister in Illinois, and there are three children deceased. Dr. Cooper read medicine with the late Dr. Strather, of Warm Springs. He was prominent in church circles, being a ruling elder of a Parkersburg Presbyterian congregation.

James Harvey Cooper married Julia Ann Whitman, of Greenbrier County. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters. The daughters were Agnes who died in 1861, Julia Ann, and Rebecca. In reference to the sons we have this remarkable but sad record. They were all Confederate soldiers. Robert died in the war. James lost an arm in battle. John and Charles were each severely wounded, and George was killed in 1864 in battle near Fishers Hill.

Joseph W. Cooper married Rachel Tallman Sutton, and lived near Greenbank. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter: Rachel, George Clark, James Amos, John William, and Charles Calvin. In 1863 in the course of three weeks the diphtheritic scourge removed the mother, her daughter, and three sons by death. J. W. Cooper's second marriage was with Harriet Wade of Bath County. She lived about one year. His third marriage was with Mary Arbogast, near Glade Hill. Snowden, Walter and Vivian were the children of this marriage.

The writer would hereby cheerfully acknowledge the thanks due George C. Cooper for assistance rendered by him on the wayside, July 1, 1901, when we casually met near Marvin Chapel and took notes under an apple tree, the thermometer 96 degrees. Without the data given by this grandson of the venerable pioneer this sketch could not have been prepared and the name of a most worthy pioneer would have been overlooked.

James Cooper's name appears in the organization of the county as one of the constables appointed. He served the public as magistrate, assessor, and teacher of schools. He was regarded with high esteem for his honest and elevated character in social and business relations. He was a prominent member of the Liberty Church in the early history of that historic congregation, and his influence was ever for good morals, intelligence, and refinement of manners, himself being a fine specimen of what is termed "a gentleman of the old school", and was noted for his polite and gracious manners, correct and entertaining conversational powers.

We are indebted to Price for the above sketch. However, some minor errors should be corrected. James Cooper was born in Rockbridge County and married Nancy after coming to Green Bank. James Harvey Cooper had eight sons, five of whom were Confederate soldiers, and three daughters. With regard to these children, Charles was captured rather than wounded, George was killed July 15, 1864, in Loudoun County, Virginia, rather than at Fishers Hill, and Agnes died in 1856.

REFERENCES:

- Chalkley, Lyman. CHRONICLES OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLEMENT IN VIRGINIA. 3 Volume Roselyn, Virginia: Commonwealth Printing Co., 1912-1913. Abstracts from the original court records of Augusta County, 1745-1800.
 Price, William T. HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Marlinton, West Virginia: Price Brothers, 1901.
 Leather, Minnie K. HISTORY OF RITCHIE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Wheeling, W. Va.: Wheeling News Litho. Co., 1911. Especially pages 278-280.
 Miller, Thomas C., & Maxwell, Hu. WEST VIRGINIA AND ITS PEOPLE. 3 Volumes. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913. See Volume 3, pages 983-984.

If several years from now I have moved ~~anywhere~~ persons desiring to correspond about the history of the family can obtain my current address from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or from the Alumni Office, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

August 1959

Minor revisions, April 1968

To: My Cooper Relatives

From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601

Re: Our ancestors, James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), married in 1805, of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This paper will be concerned with James Cooper and his wife, Nancy Agnes Wooddell, two of our ancestors of the sixth generation. My hope is that distributing this sketch will encourage you to send me additional material concerning these two ancestors. Please make suggestions concerning corrections and additions, for I plan to revise this paper for inclusion in a brief history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, and McKemy ancestors, which will be distributed among you when completed.

As was the case with an earlier paper concerning Joseph Wooddell, a major source of information for this paper has been the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I am grateful to Mr. Wooddell for permission to copy and use this material. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamed, a native of Green Bank who now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, for introducing me to Mr. Wooddell and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the history and family relationships of Pocahontas County. Other valuable sources have been letters and conversations with members of the family, Chalkley's abstracts, Price's history, and the courthouse records at Marlinton, Staunton, and Lexington.

James Cooper (1780-1845) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on January 16, 1780, the youngest of the four children of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKemy. James' father died when James was less than two years old and he was reared in the Mossy Creek section of Augusta County, according to Price. Though Chalkley abstracts adoption papers for his two brothers, I found none for James and it is therefore most probable that James was reared by his mother, Jean McKemy, at the McKemy homestead near Mossy Creek. However, I have no direct evidence to support this guess.

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1845) was born in Augusta County, Virginia on December 13, 1785, the second child of Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820). I know nothing about her childhood. However, James and Nancy may have met at the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1768 and in which both the McKemy and Wooddell families were prominent. There is also some slight evidence that James and Nancy's mothers may have been sisters, but I do not have conclusive evidence about this possibility.

Contrary to the statement of Price, which will be quoted later, James and Nancy were not married when both moved to Green Bank soon after 1800. I do not know whether James accompanied James McKemy, his uncle, or the Wooddell family on this move; since James McKemy & Joseph Wooddell were granted land jointly, they may have moved as a single party, with James Cooper in tow. Before his marriage, James Cooper earned a part of his living at Green Bank by teaching school, according to a bill now in the Wooddell family papers in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank:

Bondy due to James Cooper for teaching school:

	L	S	D
Thomas Coberly, Dr to Cash	0	1	10
B. Jacob Nottingham, Dr to Cash	0	2	0
James Nottingham, Dr to Cash	0	2	0

	L	S	D
Stephen Pinard, Dr to Cash	0	12	0
John Shitain, In to Cash	0	12	0

Taken from the Book—it Being a Ballance Due me from the Employers January the 16th, 1804. James Cooper

James Cooper and Nancy Agnes Wooddell were married at Green Bank on June 17, 1805. Since Nancy was still a minor, the marriage bond was made several days before the ceremony between James and her father, Joseph Wooddell. Green Bank was still part of Bath County at that time and thus the following bond is on file at the Bath County courthouse, Warm Springs, Virginia:

Know all men by these presents that we, James Cooper and Joseph Wooddell are held and firmly bound unto John Page esq. Governor of Virginia in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the use of the Commonwealth to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Governor or his successors we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators jointly & severally firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 11th day of June, 1805.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is shortly intended to be had and Solemnized a marriage between the above bound James Cooper and Nancy Wooddel of this County, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force:

Signed and Acknow.^d
in presence of
Chs L Francisco

JAS COOPER
JOS WOODDELL

Seal

After their marriage, James and Nancy settled near her father's homestead on a stream which is now called Cooper Run, a branch of Deer Creek, at an approximate longitude of 79° 48' 30" and north latitude of 38° 24' 45". Over the years, James acquired considerable land. Some of the boundaries of their land were specified in a deed to their son, Joseph, made shortly before James' death in 1845:

This Indenture made and entered into this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty five between James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia of the one part and Joseph W. Cooper of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said James Cooper for and in the consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to him in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by him the said James Cooper hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Joseph W. Cooper and to his heirs and assigns forever the following certain tracts or parcels of land to wit: One tract containing one hundred and fifteen acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr. Lamb and Betsy his wife lying and being in the County of Pocahontas and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at 2 white Oaks corner to Solomon Conrad thence N. 60° W. 120 poles to 3 white Oaks corner to sd Conrad thence N. 73° W. 40 poles to a pitch pine or black pine S. 50° W. 54 poles to 3 black pines & Boon Tallmans line thence S. 7° W. 70 poles to a white Oak and hickory thence S. 85° E. 96 poles to 2 Birchies a branch S. 14° E. 36 poles to a pine and white oak on the top of a ridge thence S. 65° E. 100 poles to 2 Chestnuts thence N. 5° W. 109 poles to the Beginning.

Also an other tract containing seventy five acres Deeded to sd Cooper by Mr. Marriek and James Tallman lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Carters Creek a branch of Greenbrier River and bounded as follows Beginning at 2 maples and sugar tree S. 80° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood thence S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 maples on a ridge N. 60° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks W. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 22° W. 53 poles to a white oak and hickory on the top of a hill E.

94 poles to 2 Beeches by a branch S. 11° E. 110 poles to a forked maple in a draft and down the same to N. 83° W. 60 poles to 2 ironwoods N. 84° W. 204 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract containing twenty acres adjoining the foregoing and Jacob Bible and bounded as follows to Wit. Beginning at 2 ironwoods corner to Jacob Bible and the old tract thence S. 15° E. 30 poles to 2 pines on a hill Side S. 77° E. 88 poles to 2 white Oaks N. 25° E. 16 poles to a spruce pine N. 66° W. 26 poles to a Spruce pine N. 15° W. 20 poles to a pine and white oak thence leaving sd Bibles line N. 83° W. 70 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract Containing Eighty acres deeded to sd Cooper & Jacob Dysart Thomas Lamb and his wife lying & being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows to wit; Beginning at a Sugar Tree and maple corner to Wm. Lightner thence S. 88° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 Maples on a ridge N. 62° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks N. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 28° W. 53 poles to a white Oak and hickory on a ridge N. 40° W. 58 poles to 2 white Oaks S. 72° W. 52 poles to white Oak S. 58° E. 14 poles to the Beginning on the other tract containing fifteen acres and adjoining the aforementioned tract and Deeded to sd Cooper by sd Dysart Lamb and wife.

Another tract Containing fifteen acres and Deeded to sd Cooper by James Tallman lying and being in the county and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek adjoining the lands of Solomon Conrad, Patrick Bruffy, and Boon Tallman.

Together with the appertainances belonging to sd tracts or parcels of land to the sole use and behoof of him the sd Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever, and the said James Cooper for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree with the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs, that the said James Cooper and his heirs the said parcels of land with all the appertainances thereunto belonging to the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim of him the said James Cooper and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever will forever warrant and defend, in Witness Whereof the Said James Cooper hath hereunto Subscribed his name and affixed his seal this day and year above written.

Jas. Cooper Seal

Pocahontas County to wit—We Edward Ervine & Wm. Arbogast Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that James Cooper a part to a certain deed bearing date the 19th day of March 1845 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired not to retract it and desired to certify the sd acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas in order that sd deed may be recorded Given under our hands and Seals this 19th day of March in the year 1845.

Edward Ervine Seal
Wm. Arbogast Seal

James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) were the parents of nine children:

501 Elizabeth (Betsy) McKemy Cooper
Born May 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died May 8, 1845, Greenhill, Highland County, Va.
Place of burial not known.
Married April 4, 1844 to Samuel Woods

502 Melinda Cooper
Born December 21, 1808, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died 1894, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
Place of burial not known.
Unmarried

*503 James Harvey Cooper

Born July 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died December 8, 1881, near Tanner, Gilmer County, W. Va.
 Buried on his farm on Jessie Run, near Tanner, W. Va.
 Married March 8, 1836, Pocahontas County, to Julia Ann Whitman
 (born September 28, 1817, Anthony's Creek, Greenbrier County,
 W. Va.—died September 20, 1903, near Tanner W. V.—buried
 beside her husband), daughter of George Whitman, Senior.

504 Nancy B. Cooper

Born July 29, 1812, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died March 3, 1885, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Unmarried

505 John Thomas Cooper

Born November 28, 1814, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 9, 1878, Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married October 31, 1850, near Fairmont, W. Va., to Louisa Lirpin
 Linn (born February 15, 1825, Linn's Mills near Fairmont, W. Va.
 died February 11, 1916), daughter of Robert Linn III (1781-1834)
 & Catherine Lyon (1788-1856)

506 Margaret I. Cooper

Born February 11, 1819, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died January 25, 1895, Burnt House, Ritchie County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married March 12, 1844, to Enoch R. Hill (born January 13, 1821—
 died August 6, 1896, Burnt House, W. Va.), son John Hill (1790-
 1885) & Keturah Cunningham (-).

507 Lucinda Cooper

Born March 1, 1821, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died May 27, 1886, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Arbovale, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Married December 21, 1843, Green Bank, W. Va., to John Alexander
 Gillaspie (born December 22, 1815—died March 11, 1897, Green
 Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.).

508 Joseph William Cooper

Born April 18, 1823, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 29, 1898, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Warwick Cemetery, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Married first 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (born October 21, 1822—
 died July 12, 1863, Green Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.)
 Married second January 16, 1868, Bath County, Va., to Harriett A.
 Wade (born 1835—died about 1869), daughter of Henry S. Wade &
 F. Arbogast.
 Married third to Mary E. Arbogast (born 1845), daughter of Solomon
 Arbogast & Nancy Nottingham.

509 Eliza Virginia Cooper

Born September 30, 1844, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 18, 1900, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married November 30, 1869, to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828).

During the period from 1800 to 1810, several lawsuits arose among the various members of the McKemy family and between some of the McKemys and the children

of James Cooper (-1781). These suits were engendered, apparently, because some of the McKemy uncles had purchased or managed the property of James Cooper (-1781) after adopting one or two of his children, then died intestate, which led to disputes between their own children and the adopted Cooper cousins. The records pertaining to these suits can be found in the Augusta County courthouse under "McKamy vs. McKamy—O.S. 147; N. S. 51—Bill, no date" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. 2, pages 127-128) and "Coopers Heirs vs. McKamy—O.S. 212; N. S. 75—Bill, May, 1809" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. II, page 167). Judging by the abstracts, these papers might contain information about the various Cooper-McKemy relationships, but I have not had an opportunity to visit the courthouse at Staunton. However, I do have a photostatic copy of a letter by James Cooper (1780-1845) to Mr. & Mrs. James McKemy, which was submitted as evidence in the Cooper-McKemy case cited above:

Dear Uncle & Aunt—These Comes to let you know that we are enjoying a Reasonable Degree of health at present and hope these may find you and your family in good health when they Come to your hand.

I have nothing material to inform you of at present only that I have Notify^d Andrew Kenady to attend at Staunton at Garbers Tavern on the first day of the September District Court in order to Settle the Bond I have of my fathers on him and his Brother James, I wrote him to have the Bond he said he had against my Father (that is if there is any in being) or to have the money to pay it or I should enter suit against him as I could give him no longer Indugence.

I have some thoughts of going to Tenessee State this fall if I possibly Can—and wish you if it lies in your power to get me some mony as I shall stand in need of some to bear my expences—and also I want you or Some of you to be at Garbers on the day above mention. to meet Kenaday to see if he will have the Bond or money or what he intends to do and you will much oblige your Affectiate Nephew.

Mr. James McKemey
N. B. please to write to Bearer

James Cooper
July the 31st 1806
Bath County

I have compared the handwriting of this letter, which is in the Cooper-McKemy case records in the courthouse at Staunton, with samples of James Cooper's handwriting in the Wooddell family papers and there is no question but that the James Cooper (1780-1845) of Green Bank was the son of the James Cooper (-1781) and Jean McKemy of Rockbridge County. Other evidence supports this relationship: the Wooddell papers contain a letter from James McKemey in which he mentions going to Lexington, county seat of Rockbridge, on business for James Cooper; the oldest child of James Cooper (1780-1845) was Elizabeth McKemy Cooper; approximate years of birth for James' older siblings, calculated from adoption and apprenticeship data in Chalkley (I, 273; I, 280), are consistent with James' known date of birth.

The above letter is also interesting because James mentions the possibility of visiting Tennessee. Though James was probably reared in the Mossy Creek area, he may have spent part of his early years in Tennessee; Chalkley's abstract of the Cooper-McKemy suit papers states: "James Cooper and others of the Cooper family moved to Tennessee." A thorough examination of the papers in the Staunton courthouse would probably reveal the basis for this statement. Some of the McKemy depositions in the two suits were from Knox County, Tennessee.

In addition to farming, James Cooper (1780-1845) also served as a Bath County constable for several years. As early as 1808, he carried out court orders, according to a document in the Wooddell family papers:

Bath County to wit—Whereas Charles Doneven in said County farmer hath personally come before me Sampson Mathews one of the Commonwealths Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County and hath taken a Corporal oath that

Page 6

he the Said Charles Doneven is afraid John McMahon in the Said County far-
mer and James McMahon the Said John McMaha son will beat him (wound main
kill or do him some bodily hurt) and hath therefore prayed surety of the
peace against him the Said John McMahon and James McMahon his son.

These are therefore on behalf and in the name of the Commonwealth to
Command you jointly and severally that immediately upon the receipt here of
you bring the Said John McMahon and James McMahon before me or some other
Justice of the peace for the said County of Bath to find surety as well for
his personal appearance at the next Court to be holden for the said County
as for their keeping the peace in the mean time towards Citizens of this
Commonwealth and chiefly towards the said Charles Doneven.

Given under my hand and seal in the said County the fifteenth day of
September one thousand Eight Hundred and Eight.

To James Cooper Constable
To Execute and Return

Sampson Mathews

Seal

James apparently continued as constable for many years, since Price (pages
100-101) states concerning the formation of Pocahontas County from Bath County:

Affairs having so far progressed, the formation of a new county was
mooted and due arrangements made. A resolution to that effect was passed by
the Virginia Legislature, March 1821 . . . One of the most memorable days
in the social and civil history of Pocahontas County was the 5th day of
March, 1822, when the first court was held . . . James Cooper was appointed
Constable for the Head of Greenbrier, with William Slaven and Samuel Hogsett
as bondsmen.

At his death in 1845, James was apparently still serving as constable, since
the men who served as his bondsmen had to settle obligations which he had not
settled before his death, according to a receipt in the Wooddell papers:

Recd 1 Dec 1846 of James Wooddell the acct of Patrick Bruffey Sheriff
of Pocahontas County for the sum of \$13.78 & also for the sum of \$9.08
money paid by the said James Wooddell as one of the securities of James
Cooper late Constable of Pocahontas County upon executions from the Super-
ior Court of law & cls. for Pocahontas County in favour of the Gov. vs.
said Cooper & his securities—said acct is now placed in my hands for the
purpose of collecting the amt. thereof by suit of the estate of sd Cooper.
W. H. Terrill

James was a member of the Virginia militia, according to a document in the
Wooddell papers:

At a Regimental Court of Enquiry held for the 127 Regiment of Virginia
Militia at the House of John Bradshaws in the County of Pocahontas on the
26th day of November 1825.

Ordered that James Cooper Provost Martial to this Regiment be allowed
three Dollars per day fer Attending one Regimental and two Battalion Courts
of enquiry during the Present year amounting in the whole to \$9.
Teste Joseph Moore C.C.E.

Apparently militia allowances were paid from fine money collected by the
Sheriff, for on the reverse side of the above document is the following notation:

The Sheriff of Pocahontas County will pay the within sum of Nine Dol-
lars to James Cooper out of any money in his hands Arising from Militia
fines.

John Baxter Col. Comdt.

James also served as the local assessor and one of the receipts he gave to his brother-in-law is in the Wooddell papers: Page 7

1839—James Wooddell to the Com^r of the Revenue for Pocahontas County. In to Entering by Divise two tracts of land on the land list 98 & 40 Acres of land Devised by Joseph Wooddell.

Jas. Cooper Com^r Rev.

The year before his death, James prepared a will which was probated in December 1845 and can be found in Pocahontas County will book 2, page 265:

In the name of God Amen. I, James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering the mortality of the Human Body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last Will & Testament, Revoking all others—First I Recommend my soul to God who gave it, my body to be Decently Buryed in a Christian like manner, and after my Burial expenses are paid, and all my other just debts are punctually paid, I Will and Bequeath the Ballance of my property both real and personal in the form following:

First, I will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy Cooper all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture except sutch as her Daughters has made and claims, also the controle of my House and House hold during her life time or Widowhood, her choise of two clocks, and my Family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my Daughter Malinda, provided she out lives her mother the remainder of the Books to be equally divided between the ballance of the Heirs, I also will to my Wife Nancy Cooper, one Horse two cows and ten head of Sheep, and the Bees for the use of the Family, To my Daughter Betsy M. Cooper or her Heirs, I will and bequeath, one Sorrel Mare Saddle and Bridle, her equal proportion of Sheep, and one cow (exclusive of two cows that she claims as her own at this time), I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Malinda one Horse Saddle and Bridle one cow and her equal proportion of Sheep, also the same to my Daughter Nancy B., the same to my Daughter Margaret I., the same to my Daughter Lucinda, the same to my Daughter Eliza Virginia and to my son Joseph W. Cooper, I will and bequeath one bay colt one cow and his equal proportion of Sheep with his sisters, also my Rifle Gun & Shot Pouch, my Watch, and wearing apperl, also my Plantation with all its apertainances, including all the Farming Utentials and Wind Mill, during the Lifetime or Widowhood, of his mother or during the single sate of any of his Sister, Provided the above named J. W. Cooper maintains his Mother during her Life time or Widowhood and his Sisters or sister while they remain Single and wish to live on the Place with him, by them giveing him what assistance they can towards their own support, and after the Death or Widowhood of my Beloved Wife, and after the marriage or death of all my single Daughters, the Plantation, is to be sold, Provided it brings what any three disinterested Free holders may say it is worth, the appraisors to be chosen by the Heirs liveing on the Plantation at that time, provided they can agree, if not, they are to be appointed by Court, and if my son J. W. Cooper complies with the above, He shall have two hundred dollars out of the price of sd. land and an equal Portion with his sisters, also all my interest in the Mountain Lands and Farming Utentials which is on or belonging to the Farm at that time exclusive of the Horse, Cow, Sheep, Gun, Watch and Cloaths, before mentioned, but if my son J. W. Cooper does not choose to maintain his mother and sisters as above mentioned, then my Beloved Wife is to have the Farm and Farming utentials during her life or widowhood for the benefit of her and her single daughters or in case of the death of her son J. W. Cooper while he is single, she is to have the same controle as if he should refuse to support her and her single daughters as above mentioned—To my son James H. Cooper, I will and bequeath Fifty Dollars out of the price of said land when sold, by deducting the Principal, without its interest of a note which I hold on him out of sd. Fifty Dollars—I also Will and Bequeath to my son John T. Cooper Fifty Dollars out

of the price of sd. land when sold, and if sd. J. T. Cooper chooses he may have the surveyors Instruments at Thirty Dollars out of sd. Fifty Dollars and to have the same any time after my death.

Page 8

Lastly I constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Nancy Cooper and my son Joseph W. Cooper Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Thirty first day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty four and 69th year of the Commonwealth.

WITNESSES PRESENT

Boone Tallman

John A. Gillaspie

Jacob Fible

Jas. Cooper

Seal

I do not know whether any of the objects mentioned in James' will, including the family Bible, are still in existence. I have had some correspondence with one of the descendants of Joseph William Cooper, but he does not know of anyone who has family heirlooms or papers. Since none of James' descendants now live in Green Bank, most of this material was probably destroyed or widely scattered when the various moves took place. Since Malinda, who never married, was living with her sister, Eliza Virginia Cooper Kerr, and family in 1870, according to the 1870 census, it may be that someone among the Andrew W. Kerr descendants has the family Bible and other objects.

James Cooper died on November 8, 1845. His son, Joseph William Cooper, operated the family farm and supported his mother until her death on November 29, 1861. During our brief visit to Green Bank in 1958, Mr. Hamed and I were unable to locate the graves of James and Nancy, but we did not have time to make extensive inquiries in the neighborhood or to search the old family homestead.

Price (pages 476-479) has written a sketch entitled "James Cooper", which I will reproduce in full, even though some of it duplicates my previous remarks, because Price's book is not easy to obtain, particularly outside West Virginia:

During most of the 19th century the Cooper name has been familiar in our region. James Cooper, the progenitor of the Cooper relationship, was a native of Augusta County, and was reared in the Mossy Creek section of that great County. Having married Nancy Agnes Wooddell, he came over with the Wooddells, very early in the settlement of the upper section of our county, and opened up property now (1900) owned by Robert N. Gun, near Greenbank, then known as Piney Woods. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Elizabeth Cooper became Mrs. Woods, and settled at Greenhill, Highland County.

Margaret became Mrs. Enoch Hill and lived in Ritchie County. Her daughter Harriet became Mrs. Fling, and lived at Flag, Ohio. Nannie became another Mrs. Fling, and lived in Ritchie County.

Jane Cooper became Mrs. Andrew Kerr and lived near Dunmore. Her daughter Nannie became Mrs. Washington Hoover; Anne, now Mrs. Raymer Davis, near Greenbank; Caroline, now Mrs. Gatewood Sutton, at Durbin. Her son William lived in Pocahontas, and John Kerr lives in Lewis County.

Lucinda Cooper became Mrs. John Alexander Gillespie, late of Greenbank. Her children were Taylor, Amos, and Wise, the three sons. Her daughters were Nancy, who became Mrs. George Beverago; Rachel, now Mrs. Henry Sheets, near Dunmore; Margaret, now Mrs. John L. Hudson, near Louisa, Mary now Mrs. George Sheets, and Martha.

Nancy and Malinda are the names of James Cooper's other two daughters. Thomas Cooper died in youth.

John T. Cooper married in Marion County. He was a popular physician.

Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell,
Gothard, Wilson, & Patton Families

of

Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia

York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania

Blount, Knox, & Roane counties, Tennessee

Pocahontas, Gilmer, & Ritchie counties, West Virginia

Wayne County, Kentucky

Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana

York County, South Carolina

by

Homer C. Cooper

145 Pendleton Drive

Athens, Georgia 30601

January 1, 1969

Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton

Our family is preparing a Cooper & McKemy family record and would appreciate information concerning the Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton families discussed below.

James Cooper (died 1781) & wife Jean McKemy

We are especially interested in information about James Cooper (died 1781) and Jean McKemy, his wife, who lived in Augusta County & Rockbridge County, Virginia, where James died in 1781. The will and estate records of James Cooper mention four children:

1. John Cooper

Born about 1771-1772. Apprenticed as a tailor, 1785-1789, and followed the tailoring trade for several years afterward. We have documentary evidence that he was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1801 and 1807, but no information as to whether he settled there permanently or married and had children.

2. Nancy Agnes Cooper

Born about 1775. Married after 1795 to William Gothard; settled in Georgia (where?); and had at least one son, John Cooper Gothard. Nancy Agnes died before 1809 and her brothers lost contact with her husband and son.

3. Thomas Cooper

Born about 1777. Adopted in 1793 by his uncle, James McKemy. Married March 7, 1798, Augusta County, Virginia, to Elizabeth Wilson, daughter of Robert Wilson. No further record of Thomas & Elizabeth.

4. James Cooper (1780-1845)

Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1780; settled at Green Bank, formerly Bath County, Virginia, now Pocahontas County, West Virginia, about 1802; and died at Green Bank in 1845. Married in 1805 to Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), daughter of Lt. Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) of Green Bank. James & Nancy were my great-great-grandparents. I have considerable information about them and their children which I would be happy to share.

We have no further information about James Cooper (died 1781) and would particularly like to know the names of his parents. We also would like to know more about John, Nancy Agnes, and Thomas: their dates and places of birth, marriage, and death; their spouses and children; and where they settled.

McKemy & Ferrell/Farrell

Jean McKemy was the daughter of John McKemy (died 1789) of Augusta County, Virginia. Her brother, James McKemy (born 1753), settled in Blount County, Tennessee, about 1787-1792 and applied for his Revolutionary War pension there in 1832. After the death of her first husband, James Cooper (died 1781), Jean married again, during 1781-1787, to a Mr. Ferrell or Farrell. We do not know the given name of Mr. Ferrell(Farrell), but suspect that he was the John Ferrell who purchased several items when the estate of James Cooper was sold in 1783.

Mr. Ferrell and Jean have not been found in all the records we have searched. The only two possibilities, neither confirmed, have been:

1. Wilkes County, Georgia, Deed Book MH, page 110, records that a John Ferrell and wife Jean sold 200 acres on Fishing Creek to William Low in 1790. We have no evidence that this John & Jean are our Ferrells

and would welcome any information you may have which would prove that they are or are not our people.

2. The third wife of James Ferrell (1732-1808) of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, and Halifax counties, Virginia, was named either Jean or Jane. We have no evidence that his Jean or Jane was our Jean and would appreciate any information you may have about them.

We would certainly be grateful for any data you may have about Jean and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Except for the two possibilities mentioned above, they seem to have "disappeared" from the records!

William Cooper (died about 1796) of Pennsylvania

William Cooper of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, died about 1796. His daughter Eleanor married a McKemy and we suspect--but cannot prove--that William Cooper (died about 1796) was related in some way to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia. We think that William Cooper lived in what is now the Mount Pleasant Township of Adams County, but have not located his grave. From Virginia courthouse and personal records--we have not searched Pennsylvania records--we know that William Cooper was married at least twice (but not the names of his wives) and had at least five children (but not the order of their births):

1. James Cooper
Lived in York County, Pennsylvania. Died during 1796-1807. Had business relations with a man named Archer of Guilford County, North Carolina.
2. William Cooper
Living in 1808, but we do not know where.
3. John Cooper
No data on him, unless he was the John Cooper in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1854.
4. Eleanor Cooper
Married John McKemy (died about 1793), brother of my great-great-grandmother, Jean McKemy, wife of James Cooper (died 1781) and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Eleanor & John settled in Augusta County, Virginia.
5. Mary (Polly) Cooper
Married Jacob Patton. Settled in Knox County, Tennessee.

If you have information about William Cooper (died about 1796) of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, particularly whether he was related to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia, we would certainly like to hear from you.

Final Note

Thank you very much for any help you may be able to give us. We want to share any Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton data with you. If I ever move, my current address can be obtained from the Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

January 1, 1969

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

We have additional Cooper and McKemy information, relevant for our search but not easily placed within the context of our presentation above, which is presented below, followed by comments and questions:

In 1775, James Cooper (died about 1781) sold a mare for thirty pounds to Thomas Cooper.

"June ye 4th 1777. Then Recd. of James Cooper the Sum of Six pounds part of the money which William Cooper sent by Isaac Taylor from fort Randolph per mo.

Richard X Magee
his mark

WHERE WAS FORT RANDOLPH LOCATED?

No date, but presumably during 1772-1779: James Cooper (died 1781) paid the debts of a John Cooper to Andrew McCampbell, George Reeve, James Young, Mary Kinkum, and Joseph Shanks.

In 1779, James Davies and wife Mary of Rockbridge County sold to Thomas Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 200 pounds, 102 acres on the forks of James River in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1779, William McKemy and wife Ann of Rockbridge County sold to John Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 22 pounds, 90 acres on Kerrs Creek. Witnesses: James Cooper, William McCampbell, & William McMath.

In 1782, the inventory and appraisement of the estate of James Cooper (died 1781) included two Bibles. When the estate was sold in 1783, these Bibles were not included in the sale. WHERE ARE THESE BIBLES TODAY? They may have important birth, marriage, and death data.

In the hand of John McKemy, undated but presumably about 1783: a piece of paper headed "The Estate of James Cooper Decd. To Thos. Cooper." The first item under the heading reads: "To Cash paid to John Gilmore for Wm Cooper to order of Jas. Cooper."

In 1785, a piece of paper, the face side of which reads:

Gentlemen—If any of you can Spare Some Cattle to Mr. Robert Rush let him have them upon my Acct. and take his Rct. for the Value he Receives them at and I will Give you Credit on your Bonds for the Same for I Owe him and cannot Get the money for him, and he agrees to take Some Cattle in part for what I Owe him. yr. Compliance will Oblidge Gentln. yr. Hum. Servt.

Sept. 12th 1785

John McKemy

To Messrs. John Cooper, Thomas Cooper,
Joseph Thompson & Alexander McKemy

On the reverse side of this same piece of paper are two additional statements, the first of which is:

State of Tennessee // This day Isabella Cooper Came before us
Blount County John Tedford and William Gault two of the
Justices of the peace of said County and made oath that the five
pounds fifteen Shillings Received for here is part of an arbitration
between John & James McKemy Executors for the Estate of James Cooper
Decd. and Thomas Cooper

John Tedford
William Gault

The second of the two statements on the reverse side reads:

September the 14 1785--Received of Thomas Cooper five pounds
fifteen shillings. Recd. by me

Robert Rusk

During 1787-1795, a John Ferrell of Knox County & Hawkins County, Tennessee, was grantee for several parcels of land recorded in Knox County deed books, including a grant by the State of North Carolina ("Copied from Book B, Page 89, Grant 275"). WAS THIS JOHN FERRELL THE SECOND HUSBAND OF JEAN MCKEMY, WIDOW OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)?

On September 20, 1785, in Augusta County, Virginia, John Cooper, "Son to James Cooper Decd. . . . and By the Consent of his Guardian John McKemy," was apprenticed to Thomas Hinds, a tailor. The indenture was witnessed by Benjamin Norton, John Middleton, and Eleanor Cooper.

In 1792, Thomas Cooper and wife Isabella of Rockbridge County sold to John Wilson, for 100 pounds, 100 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1796, John Cooper and wife Agnes of Rockbridge County sold to Robert Piper, for 100 pounds, 90 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Undated, in the hand of John McKemy: a paper headed "Thomas Cooper dr. To Jas. Cooper Estate" includes "To Cash paid When Going to Pitts Burgh, five pounds" and "To 1 Journey to Pennsylvania, three pounds ten shillings." WHAT RELATIVES DID THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777) HAVE IN PITTSBURGH AND PENNSYLVANIA?

In 1801, John Cooper ("heir to William Cooper, deceased") of Rockbridge County, Andrew Graham and wife Elizabeth ("mother to said heir") of Rockbridge County, and William Youel of Augusta County sold to George Wilson, for 300 pounds, 240 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Little Calf Pasture River.

In 1811, in Blount County, Tennessee, Isabella Cooper and Agness Townsley answered questions, under oath, concerning when and how long John Cooper (born about 1771) had lived in the household of his uncle, John McKemy, after the death of his father, James Cooper (died 1781). Apparently John Cooper lived in the McKemy household until June 1784.

In 1814, a William Gothard was a grantee in Knox County, Tennessee, deeds and in 1815 a William Goddard & Jane S. Campbell were married in Knox County. WAS HE THE WILLIAM GOTHARD WHO WAS THE HUSBAND OF NANCY AGNES COOPER (born about 1775; died before 1809), daughter of James Cooper (died 1781)?

Comments and Questions

The information above raises many issues which are relevant for our search for Cooper and McKemy relationships.

Unfortunately, we have not had an opportunity to search for the William Cooper (died about 1796) estate records in Adams & York counties in Pennsylvania, which might clarify many of the relationships among persons presented above. From the 1775, 1777, 1772-1779, and 1779 data above, we conclude that James Cooper (died 1781) had not only sons named John, Thomas, and James (who were either not born or too young to have been involved in those early transactions) but also other relatives, probably the William Cooper family of Adams & York counties, by those given names.

The 1801 Rockbridge County data suggest that a William Cooper (dead by 1801)

January 1, 1907

had a son John and apparently a widow Elizabeth whose second husband was Andrew Graham. WAS THIS WILLIAM COOPER OUR WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF ADAMS AND YORK COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA? If yes, DID WILLIAM DIE IN ROCK-BRIDGE OR AUGUSTA COUNTY RATHER THAN ADAMS OR YORK COUNTY?

Apparently Thomas Cooper (born about 1777) was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1785, at which time he was about eight years old and the ward of Isabella Cooper. HOW WAS ISABELLA RELATED TO THOMAS AND TO HIS FATHER, JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? WAS ISABELLA COOPER OF BLOUNT COUNTY IN 1785 and 1811 THE SAME ISABELLA COOPER WHO WAS THE WIFE OF A THOMAS COOPER IN ROCK-BRIDGE COUNTY IN 1792? If yes, HOW WAS HER HUSBAND THOMAS RELATED TO HER HUSBAND, THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777)?

HOW--if at all--WAS AGNES TOWNSLY--in Blount County in 1811--RELATED TO THE COOPER AND MCKEMY FAMILIES?

In 1785, an Eleanor Cooper witnessed the indenture of John Cooper (born about 1771), son of James Cooper (died 1781) and ward of John McKemy. WAS SHE THE ELEANOR COOPER WHO MARRIED JOHN MCKEMY AND SURVIVED HIM? If yes, WAS THIS MARRIAGE A SECOND MARRIAGE FOR JOHN MCKEMY?

Thank you very much for your help. We are grateful for your assistance.

Homer C. Cooper

145 Pendleton Drive

Athens, Georgia 30601

Any change in my address can be obtained from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. I would be happy to hear from Cooper & McKemy families at any time!

My cousins and I are descended from James Cooper (1780-1845), youngest child of James & Jean, and wife Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. James & Nancy had nine children: (1) Elizabeth McKemy Cooper (1806-1845), married 1844 to Samuel Woods; settled at Greenhill, Highland County, Virginia. (2) Melinda Cooper (1808-1894), never married; lived in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. (3) James Harvey Cooper (1810-1881), married 1836 to Julia Ann Whitman (1817-1903); settled near Tanner, Gilmer County, West Virginia; their son, Charles Slavens Cooper (1844-1921), was my grandfather. (4) Nancy B. Cooper (1812-1885), never married; lived in Pocahontas County. (5) John Thomas Cooper (1814-1878), married 1850 to Louisa Lirpin Linn (1825-1916); settled at Parkersburg, West Virginia. (6) Margaret I. Cooper (1819-1895), married 1844 to Enoch R. Hill (1821-1896); settled at Burnt House, Ritchie County, West Virginia. (7) William Cooper (1821-1886), married 1843 to John Alexander Gillaspie (1815-1877); settled at Arbovale in Pocahontas County. (8) Joseph William Cooper (1823-1878), married 1st 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (1822-1863); married 2nd 1848 to Harriett A. Wade (1835-1869?); married 3rd 1869 to Mary E. Arboval (born 1845); settled at Green Bank in Pocahontas County. (9) Eliza Virginia Cooper (1825-1900), married 1849 to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828); settled at Dumore in Pocahontas County.

If you have old Cooper, McKemy, or Wooddell records, such as letters, Bibles, deeds, etc., concerning any of these families, I would certainly be grateful if you would write to me.

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Since preparing the above statement, I have learned from two other Cooper searchers, to whom I am much indebted, that Wayne County, Kentucky, and Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana, are relevant:

1. Frederick Cooper was born in 1759 in York County, Pennsylvania, from which county he first served in the Revolution; in 1780, he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, where he served again; and in 1799 moved to Wayne County, Kentucky. Frederick Cooper (1759-) married in 1783 to Dorothy Brown, by whom he had the following children (with years of birth): Katy, 1784; Anne, 1786; Henry, 1790; John, 1793; William, 1795; Abraham, 1798; Isaac, 1805; and Jacob, 1808. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF FREDERICK COOPER?

2. James Cooper and wife Mary Werr were living in Blount County, Tennessee, when their son, Alexander Cooper, was born in 1817. In 1823, the family moved to Sullivan County, Indiana; in 1824, they moved to Vigo County, Indiana, where both James & Mary died in 1855. Alexander Cooper married Elizabeth McGriff in 1842, was a member of the Christian Church, and served two terms as county surveyor in Vigo County. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF JAMES COOPER (died 1855)? WHEN AND WHERE WAS JAMES BORN? DID JAMES AND MARY HAVE OTHER CHILDREN?

Several other miscellaneous notes seem worthy of inclusion in our summary of Cooper & McKemy families:

3. In 1795, James Cooper and wife Hannah of York County, Pennsylvania, conveyed to John McKemy of Augusta County, Virginia, for 110 pounds, 110 acres on both sides of the North River of "Shenando" in Augusta County. Witnesses: William McKemy, Eleanor McKemy, William Walker, Jr. WAS THIS JAMES COOPER THE JAMES COOPER (died during 1796-1807) WHO WAS A SON OF WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF PENNSYLVANIA?

Also, the Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, contains the graves of a Hannah Cooper (1756-1822), Thomas J. Cooper (1797-1875) and wives Margaret & Elizabeth, and Martha Toot Cooper (1818-1871). WAS HANNAH COOPER THE WIFE OF JAMES COOPER?

4. According to a history of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, John Bradshaw (1758-1834) "married Miss Nancy McKemie, in the vicinity of Parnassus," before moving from Augusta County to Pocahontas County. WAS NANCY'S FULL NAME NANCY AGNES McKEMY? WAS SHE THE DAUGHTER AGNES MENTIONED IN THE WILL OF JOHN McKEMY (died 1789) OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, WHO ALSO MENTIONED A GRANDSON, JOHN BRADSHAW, IN HIS WILL?

5. The will of James McKemy, Sr., written in 1817 and probated in 1818 in Augusta County, Virginia, left to wife Agnes and the following children: James McKemy (who inherited his father's plantation), Jane McKemy ("one half of My Greenbrier plantation, consisting of more than Three Hundred acres"), Nancy Maghead, John McKemy, and Hiram Hirdman. One clause states:

Again as to the law suit respecting the Negrows now depending in the state of N. Carolina, should the result prove favorable my will is that my son, James, should satisfy himself for his Tr. divide the Ballance equally among all

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY WAS THE SITE OF THE SUIT?

6. The Old Providence Church cemetery in Rockbridge County, Virginia, contains these four graves, lying consecutively in the same row: Robert Cooper (1738-1816); Susanna Cooper (1742-1817); John Cooper, died March 1, 1828, 57th year; and Margaret Cooper (1774-1847). I assume that John was the son of Robert & Susanna but, on the other hand, COULD HE HAVE BEEN THE JOHN COOPER (born about 1771) WHO WAS THE SON OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? Two other Cooper graves, some distance away, are in the cemetery: Susan A. H. Cooper (1778-1838), wife of Joseph Cooper; and Robert Cooper (1805-1840).

7. I have an incomplete note about a John Cooper who was born in 1777, Rockbridge County, Virginia; died 1861, Blendon, Ohio; served in the War of 1812; and married Polly Craig. WHOSE SON WAS HE?

A generous and keen-eyed friend found a connection between Cooper families in York County, Pennsylvania, and York County, South Carolina:

8. The will of a John Cooper, written in 1812, probated 1824 (place not determined), mentions the estate of his deceased father (not named in the will) in York County, Pennsylvania. John also names wife Elizabeth and children: Margaret, Robert, Elizabeth Davidson, William, John, and Mary Wallace. WHO WAS THE FATHER OF THIS JOHN COOPER?

This family is found again in the will of Robert Cooper, probated in 1842 in York County, South Carolina. Since his wife Mary predeceased, Robert left his estate to: John Cooper, a brother in Kentucky; James Cooper, a brother in Georgia; William Cooper, a brother in Tennessee; Mary Wallace, a sister in Virginia; Elizabeth Davidson, a sister in Yorkville, South Carolina, to have the plantation where Peter Harris lives; niece Jane Ferguson of Kentucky, daughter of brother John; niece Elizabeth Powell of Virginia, daughter of sister Mary Wallace; niece Mary Eliza Alston and her two children of South Carolina; nephews Robert Cooper and John Cooper of Tennessee, sons of brother William. Mentions his plantation in York County, South Carolina, "where Stephen Belk lives."